Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, VT

SUBJECT: POPE'S ANNUAL ADDRESS TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS

1. IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS ACCREDITED TO THE HOLY SEE, POPE PAUL EXPRESSED A CERTAIN PESSIMISM FOR THE WORLD, NOTING THAT "TODAY A GROWING PREOCCUPATION IS POSED BY THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WHICH SEEMS TO US AS WELL AS OTHERS TO BE PROGRESSIVELY DETERIORATING TO THE POINT LEADING SOME TO SAY THAT WE ARE EXPERIENCING A TRANSITION FROM A POST-WAR PHASE TO A PRE-WAR PHASE." THE POPE THEN WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE VATICAN'S LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PRESENT FORMULA OF "BALANCE OF TERROR" AS A WAY OF GUARANTEEING WORLD PEACE. WHILE HE DID NOT UNDERSTIMATE THE PRACTICAL ADVANTAGES OF SUCH A FORMULA, HE NONETHELESS LABELLED IT NEGATIVE AND NON-CONSTRUCTIVE.

2. THE POPE RESERVED SPECAIL GREETINGS FOR THOSE WHO WORK FOR A BETTER WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE "ARTISANS OF PEACE" WHOM HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO MEET, EVEN RECENTLY. HE NOTED THAT HE HAS "EXHORTED THEM NOT TO LOSE COURAGE, BUT TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS IN A CEASELESS ENTERPRISE WITH TENACITY, CLARITY AND WISDOM IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELIEF OF HUMAN REASON AND SENSE OF JUSTICE, THE BASIS OF ALL

TRUE AND SOLID PEACE." WORLD ARES SINGLED OUT FOR CONCERN WERE VIET-NAM, CAMBODIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, "WHERE THERE ARE NEW COMPLICATIONS AND CEASELSS NEW MENACES WROUGHT BY WHAT ONE CALLES THE WAR OF THE ENERGY SOURCES."

3. COMMENT: VATICAN OBSERVERS HAVE SINGLED OUT THE POPE'S MENTION OF ARTISANS OF PEACE AS A DIRECT REFERENCE AND APPEAL TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THE POPE'S CONCERN FOR "THE WAR OF ENERGY SOURCES" AS A REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S "BUSINESS WEEK" INTERVIEW. WE EARLIER PROVIDED TO VATICAN COPIES OF SECRETARY'S INTERVIEW AND FOLLOWING EXPLANATORY REMARKS. VOLPE

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